

CABINET HINGE WITH COVER IN THE FORM OF AN ELONGATED BELLOWS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a covering for cabinet hinges which serve for hanging a door on the carcase of a cabinet and have a carcase-related part which can be adjustably fastened on the carcase of the cabinet and a door-related part which can be fastened on the inside of the door and is coupled pivotingly to the carcase-related part by means of a linkage, and which conceals at least some of the hinge components.

Cabinet hinges of the kind here in question, e.g., the so-called four-pivot hinges, are not visible when the door hung on the cabinet is closed, but they are when the door is opened, in which case the metal parts which then become visible, namely the supporting arm placed on the cabinet wall and forming the carcase-related part, the linkage formed by hinge links, and the cup sunk in a recess on the back of the door but fastened as a rule on the inside face of the door with raised mounting flanges, do not offer a very satisfactory esthetical appearance, inasmuch as the heads of the fastening and adjusting screws holding the supporting arm adjustably on a mounting plate mounted on the cabinet wall and the heads of the fastening screws passing through holes in the fastening flange of the cup are visible. For esthetical reasons alone, it would therefore be desirable if such hinges could be concealed by means of a less noticeable or esthetically more satisfactory covering when the door is open. Furthermore, when the door is closed the linkage and the front part of the supporting arm are retracted into the cup, and it can then happen, especially when the cabinet is very full, that articles of clothing may get caught in the cup and, in the most unfavorable case, are damaged. To prevent clothing from becoming caught, hinges have previously been provided (DE-OS No. 27 21 582) with a resiliently flexible band held at one end on a mounting post on the supporting arm and at the other on the cup; this band stretches tightly over the linkage when the door is opened and bulges outwardly when closed, and at the same time pushes away any clothing in the cabinet that is close to the hinge so that it can no longer be caught. This, however, does not achieve a visually satisfactory concealment of the working part of the hinge.

It is the object of the invention to create a covering for cabinet hinges, especially the modern articulated hinges which are invisible when the door is closed, which will, in a largely inconspicuous manner, cover the hinge parts which are visible when the door is opened and furthermore reliably prevent clothing from becoming caught.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Setting out from a covering means of the kind described above, this object is achieved according to the invention by the fact that the covering means has an elongated bellows of elastic material, which is open on its inside-wall side, and reaches over the hinge parts projecting above the inside surface of the cabinet wall and of the door, and which can lengthen resiliently and, at least in the area of the linkage, can flex around the hinge pivot axis, and that the bellows has at each of its extremities a fastening flange which can be releasably attached to the carcase-related hinge part or to the

mounting plate holding the latter, and to the door-related hinge part.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the bellows has a substantially channel-shaped cross section, and its marginal edges are shaped such that, when the hinge is open, they lie substantially against the inside surfaces of the cabinet wall and door. The hinge is thus covered on all sides when the door is opened and thus cannot offend the eye, and articles of clothing cannot be caught in the hinge. Since cabinet hinges—when furniture is moved for example—must be accessible for the assembly or disassembly of the cabinet, and on the other hand it can occasionally happen that a hinge has to be readjusted, the adjusting and mounting screws by which the carcase-related hinge part is fastened to the cabinet wall have to be accessible. This is assured by a configuration in which the fastening flanges of matching shape provided at the ends of the bellows project laterally and at the ends from the bellows and in the fastened state rest on associated mounting flanges of the carcase-related hinge part or mounting plate and those of the door-related hinge part, the fastening flanges of the bellows and of the carcase-related hinge part or mounting plate and of the door-related hinge part being made so as to snap together.

In order to achieve a simple and quick, but on the other hand also secure snapping together, it is recommended that there be associated with each fastening flange connection a mounting element overreaching the associated fastening flange of the bellows and the carcase-related hinge part and door-related hinge part, which can snap over projections or into recesses which are provided on opposite boundary sides of the fastening flange of the carcase-related hinge part or the mounting plate and the door-related hinge part.

The mounting element is then preferably configured as an end cap shaped in plan according to the shape of the section of the bellows fastening flange projecting laterally above the bellows having integral marginal strips fitted around the margins of the overlying fastening flange of the bellows and of the carcase-related hinge part or the mounting plate and the door-related hinge part, and that indentations or openings cooperating in a complementary manner with the projections or indentations of the fastening flange of the carcase-related hinge part or mounting plate and door-related hinge part be provided in the marginal strips of the end cap.

The end caps are best made from sheet metal by stamping.

To be able to use the same kind of end caps both at the door end and at the carcase end of the bellows it is recommendable to make the fastening flanges provided at the ends of the bellows of the same shape, and to provide projections or indentations at corresponding places on the fastening flanges of the carcase-related hinge part or mounting plate and door-related hinge part.

The bellows are best made integral with their fastening flanges from an elastomeric plastic, for example by the injection-molding process. By coloring the starting material of the plastic, bellows can be manufactured in desired colors to match the associated cabinet surfaces.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be further explained in the description that follows of an embodiment, in conjunction with the drawing wherein: